

Matbat language

Matbat is a heavily Papuan-influenced Austronesian language spoken in West Papua on the island of Misool, Raja Ampat islands.^[1] Dialects are *Magey* and *Tomolol*.^{[3]:17} Like neighboring Ma'ya, it is one of a handful of Austronesian languages with true lexical tone rather than a pitch-accent system or complete lack of phonemic tonal contrasts as with most other Austronesian languages.^[4]

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Phonology

Phonology of the Matbat language:^[1]

Consonant sounds					
	<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Plosive</u>	p b	t d		k g	
<u>Fricative</u>	ϕ	s			h
<u>Nasal</u>	m	n		ŋ	
<u>Lateral</u>		l			
<u>Glide</u>			j	w	

Vowel sounds		
	<u>Front</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>Close</u>	i	u
<u>Mid</u>	e	o
<u>Open</u>	a	

Tones

Matbat	
Misool	
Native to	Indonesia
Region	Misool, Raja Ampat islands
Native speakers	1,000–1,500 (2001) ^[1]
Language family	Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none">Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Central–Eastern Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Eastern Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">South Halmahera–West New Guinea<ul style="list-style-type: none">Halmahera Sea<ul style="list-style-type: none">Maya–Matbat<ul style="list-style-type: none">Matbat
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	xmt
Glottolog	matb1237 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/matb1237) ^[2]
	

Matbat has five lexical tones: high falling ʋ 41, high ʔ 3, low rising ʌ 12, low level ʌ 1, and low falling ʌ 21, which in open syllables has a peaking allophone, ʌ 121. Most Matbat words are monosyllabic; additional syllables in polysyllabic words are often weak and toneless, though a few words do have two tonic syllables. Examples of some of the longer monomorphemic words are /kamowʌ/ 'star', /wujʔte/ 'sea shore', /sapuʋluʌ/ 'round', /bimʔbomʌpu/ 'butterfly'.

Evolution

Tonogenesis in Matbat remains unclear. Some Matbat reflexes of Proto-Malayo-Polynesian (PMP) proto-forms are listed below.^{[4]:658-659}

- PMP *bunuq > Mayá *bu³n* 'kill'
- PMP *penuq > *fo¹²n* 'full'
- PMP *salaq > *sa³l* 'error'
- PMP *qateluR (> *teluR) > *to¹²l* 'egg'
- PMP *matay > *ma¹²t* 'die'
- PMP *kutu > *u³t* 'louse'

References

1. Remijsen, A. C. L. (2002). *Word-Prosodic Systems of Raja Ampat Languages*. Leiden: Leiden University.
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Matbat" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/matb1237>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Kamholz, David (2014). *Austronesians in Papua: Diversification and change in South Halmahera–West New Guinea* (http://digitalassets.lib.berkeley.edu/etd/ucb/text/Kamholz_berkeley_0028E_14626.pdf). Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Berkeley. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/8zg8b1vd>
4. Blust, Robert (2013). *The Austronesian languages*. A-PL 008 (revised ed.). Canberra: Pacific Linguistics. hdl:1885/10191 (<https://hdl.handle.net/1885%2F10191>). ISBN 9781922185075.

Further reading

- Remijsen, Bert (2001). "A second RA tone language: Matbat". *Word-prosodic systems of Raja Ampat languages* (https://www.lotpublications.nl/Documents/49_fulltext.pdf) (PDF). Leiden University. pp. 89–104. ISBN 90-76864-09-8.

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